

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 PC-01 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

(ISO) W

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R 061239Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7604

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: INTERMITTENT STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: ADDIS 14623 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN STUDENT/TEACHER BOYCOTT DESCRIBED
REFTEL CONTINUES. AT PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, MAJORITY OF
STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING CLASSES. BEGINNING DEC 30,
STUDENTS APPEAR TO HAVE ESCALATED ANTI-GOVT ACTIVITIES
AND HAVE BEGUN ORGANIZING FIRST TENTATIVE
DEMONSTRATIONS. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN ADDIS:

2. STUDENT AT EMPRESS MENNON GIRLS SCHOOL HELD DEMONSTRATIONS
WITHIN THEIR SCHOOL COMPOUND ON DEC 30. DEMONSTRATION
SPILLED OUT INTO STREET AND ROCK-THROWING INCIDENT INSUED.
TWO BRITISH NATIONAL TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL REPORTED THAT THE
ENTIRE STUDENT BODY OF 900 GIRLS WAS HAULED OFF IN POLICE TRUCKS.
GIRLS WERE RELEASED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, ALLEGEDLY DUE TO LACK OF
JAIL SPACE, WITH A FEW GIRLS HAVING BEEN ROUGHED UP IN THE
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PROCESS.

3. ON DEC 31 SECOND INCIDENT AT EMPRESS MENNON SCHOOL RESULTED IN 120 GIRLS BEING PICKED UP BY POLICE. ON THE SAME DAY, APPROXIMATELY 145 STUDENTS FROM MENELIK II, TEFERI MAKONNE, AND QUSQUAM SCHOOLS, WERE DETAINED FOR DEMONSTRATING IN AND AROUND CAMPUSES AND THROWING ROCKS THROUGH SCHOOL WINDOWS AND AT PASSING AUTOS. SINCE THOSE INCIDENTS, ARMED SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN VISIBLE IN AND AROUND ALL FOUR SCHOOLS AND VERY FEW STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ATTENDING CLASSES.

4. THIS MORNING, JAN 6, EMB FSL WAS ON SCENE AT STUDENT "NEAR RIOTS" AT NEGAS SILM COMPREHNSIVE SCHOOL AND AFRICAN UNITY SCHOOL. WHEN STUDENTS BEGAN TRHOWING ROCKS THROUGH SCHOOL WINDOWS, POLICE CORDONED OFF AREA AND REPORTEDLY ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 300 STUDENTS. ONE POLICEMAN AND THREE STUDENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY INJURED IN THE ENCOUNTERS. STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS WERE PROTESTING CONTINUED DIRG RULE AND CONTINUED DETENTION OF ZEMATCH/STUDENTS/TEACHERS AND DEMANDING IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS APPARENTLY REMAIN UNDER DETENTION, EPMG HAS SHOWN RATHER SURPRISING RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH STUDENTS. THIS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO ATTEMPT FIRST FEW TENTATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS. SHOULD THESE DEMONSTRATIONS SPREAD, THE DIRG IS LIKELY TO TAKE OFF THE GLOVES AND REVERT TO TRADITIONAL HEAD-KNOCKING. ONE-WEEK STUDENT VACATION (ETHIOPIAN X-MAS) BEINGS JAN 7. INTERVAL COULD SERVE AS COOLING-OFF PERIOD, OR MORE LIKELY, ORGANIZING PERIOD FOR STUDENTS. UPCOMING OAU MEETINGS COULD ALSO STIMULATE ADDITIONAL STUDENT EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE THEIR GRIEVANCES AND/OR EMBARRASS EPMG.
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